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KDHE, KDADS SCHEDULE PUBLIC FORUMS ON HCBS WAIVER INTEGRATION PROJECT

TOPEKA -- Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary Dr. Susan Mosier and Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Secretary Kari Bruffett announced today a series of public forums to discuss integration of the state's home- and community-based Medicaid waiver programs.

The forums are scheduled to be conducted in Topeka, Wichita, Kansas City, Coffeyville and Garden City. The agencies also plan to conduct one or more teleconference calls to discuss waiver integration, which will be announced at a later date.

"Our goal is to speak to Kansans receiving HCBS services to understand and address their frustrations with the current waiver system," Dr. Mosier said. "These forums will provide Kansans who are on HCBS waivers and their families the opportunity to give input about how the waivers work for them."

KDADS administers seven individual home- and community-based services Medicaid waivers for individuals with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury and autism, those with a need for technology assistance, youth with a serious emotional disturbance and the frail elderly. There are a specific list of services provide under each individual waiver.

"A new 1115 waiver would allow us to establish an integrated set of services that would be available to all waiver recipients regardless of the waiver in which they are enrolled," Secretary Bruffett said. "We want to move toward a system that no longer defines individuals by a specific disability, but rather by their needs and capabilities. CMS approval of a new Kansas 1115 Medicaid waiver would give us the ability to provide the right services to individuals regardless of their disability definition."

Participants may RSVP for these public meetings at the following link:

[http://www.kdads.ks.gov/commissions/csp/home-community-based-services-\(hcb\)/hcb-current-news](http://www.kdads.ks.gov/commissions/csp/home-community-based-services-(hcb)/hcb-current-news)

Details of the forums are as follows:

Tuesday, August 25	Topeka	Capitol Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka	10:30-
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		Blvd., Topeka, KS	12:00 2:00-3:30 5:30-7:00
Wednesday, August 26	Kansas City	Hilton Garden Inn, 520 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS	10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30 5:30-7:00
	Wichita	Wichita Marriott, 9100 Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita, KS	10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30 5:30-7:00
Thursday, August 27	Coffeyville	Sleep Inn & Suites, 202 W 11 th St., Coffeyville, KS	10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30
	Garden City	Clarion Inn, 1911 E Kansas Ave, Garden City, KS	10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30